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NOV #13
EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES
the AVENGERS
WORLD WAR 3
PART 2 OF 4
ROBINSON • RYAN • CRAWFORD • REGLA
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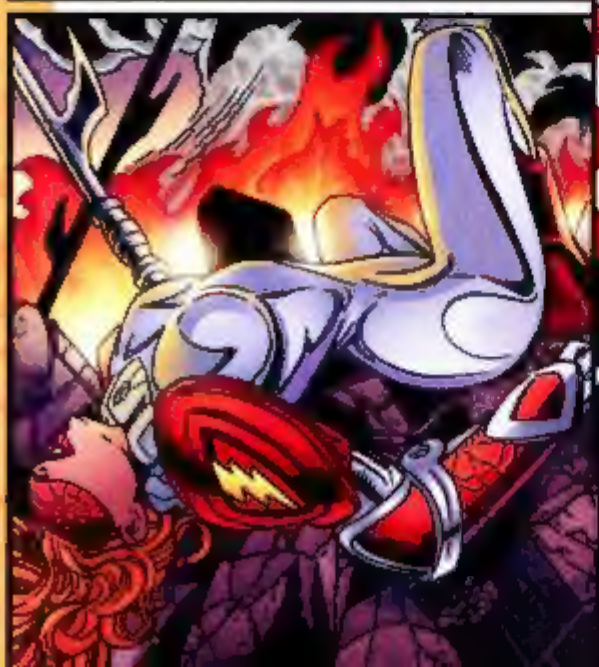
PREVIOUSLY IN WORLD WAR 3

With the space/time continuum torn asunder, two universes bled into each other. The most vile creatures from both realities, Skrulls and Daemonites, joined forces to put a planet in peril. To stave their assault, every champion of this earth was called to arms! It mattered less which team they served with than how valiantly they fought.

Many heroes had already fallen; casualties of numerous, brutal battles. The shape-shifting aliens were ruthless, often assuming the guises of those they'd slain.



And when the ranks of the super-powered soldiers were depleted, mortal men and women were encouraged to enlist. Trained by technology and armed with sophisticated detection devices they marched to victory!

ER, THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING.
THERE'S NOTHING TO THANK, REED. YOU FIND A WAY WE CAN END THE WAR WITH DOCTOR DOOM'S SKRULL/DAEMONITE ALLIANCE. TRY KEEPING ANY OF US AWAY.
WE ALL WANT IN.
NEVERTHELESS, IN THESE INCREDIBLY TRYING TIMES...
...I THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING HERE!
YOUR WORTH IS RENOWNED, RICHARDS. ON MIDGARD. ON ASGARD. LO, AND THE COSMOS BETWEEN.
IF ANYONE ELSE IS BETTER SUITED TO FINDING AN END TO WAR, I KNOW NOT WHO.
I APPRECIATE THE KIND WORDS, THOR. ESPECIALLY COMING FROM THE REGAL... ET... I MEAN GODLIKE BEING AS YOU ARE.
BUT I NOTICE THERE IS ONE TEAM MISSING. OR AM I MISTAKEN?
WHO DO YOU MEAN, REED?
WETWORKS..?

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WE GOT A TRANSMITTER DROID TO ACCOMPANY THEM.
SINCE THE DEATHLOK FIASCO, WE'VE HAD THEM ON EVERY MISSION INTO EUROPE, AS A RECORD OF EVENTS.
SO WHAT ARE WE LOOKING AT, LYNCH?
VENICE... WETWORKS ARE IN VENICE, ITALY.
UPON RUMOR OF BIO-WEAPONS MANUFACTURE... DANE VOLUNTEERED HIS TEAM FOR THE JOB OF SNIFFING AROUND.
HE SAID HE WAS BORED WAITING FOR AN ATTACK ON HOME GROUND.

LIKE A LOT OF US, HE WANTED TO TAKE THE FIGHT TO THEIR SIDE OF THE POND.
LOOKS LIKE HE GOT HIS WISH THEN, DOESN'T IT?
HE WAS MAD TOO. ONE OF HIS TEAM GOT KILLED IN THE IRAQI AFFAIR.
WHICH OF THE TEAM WAS THAT?

YOU KNOW, I'M NOT SURE. WATCH THEM GO AT IT, I BET YOU CAN WORK IT OUT AS FAST AS ME FROM WHOEVER'S MISSING.
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE LOSING THIS ONE. WHY DON'T YOU TELEPORT THEM OUT OF THERE... GET THEM BACK UP TO THE STORMWATCH SATELLITE?
THE SKRULL'S HAVE JAMMED OUR TELEPORTATION SIGNAL.
YOU'RE TELLING ME THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO, BUT WATCH THEM GET MASSACRED?
THAT'S THE SORRY STATE OF THINGS, I'M AFRAID TO SAY.
GOD, LOOK HOW OUTNUMBERED THEY ARE...
...IT'D TAKE A MIRACLE TO SAVE THEM!
WAIT, WETWORKS IS ALL IN THE CHURCH.
WHO'S BLASTING THE ENEMY OUTSIDE?

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?
A MIRACLE IN RED AND GOLD!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
IT'S IRON MAN. HE'S BACK.
WHERE DO YOU THINK HE'S BEEN? WHY WAS HE AWAY?
WE'LL FIND OUT ALL THAT LATER, MAYBE. QUIET NOW...

I WANT TO ENJOY THIS.

SIGNAL'S BACK, SIR.
IRON MAN'S ARMOR MUST HAVE KNOCKED OUT THE SKRULL'S TELEPORTATION JAMMER. WE CAN TELEPORT THEM ON YOUR ORDER.
GOD ENSIGN, DON'T WAIT FOR MY ORDER...

...GET THEM OUT OF THERE.

LATER, WITH A CIGARETTE AND A GINGER ALE (WHERE ONCE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SCOTCH AND SODA)...
I THINK YOU OWE US AT LEAST A SMALL EXPLANATION, IRON MAN. YOU'VE BEEN GONE FOR OVER A YEAR.
VERILY, MY ARMORED FRIEND. WE HAD LONG THOUGHT YOU GONE TO VALHALLA.
I SUPPOSE, I SHOULD SAY SOMETHING.
WE'RE LISTENING, TONY.
WHEN STARK INDUSTRIES WAS ATTACKED... WHAT DID THE NEWSPAPERS CALL IT AT THE TIME..? "THIS WAR'S PEARL HARBOR"...
...POETIC, SURE. IN THAT BULLPEN RHETORIC KIND OF WAY. AMERICA GOT ANGRY FROM WHAT HAPPENED. WE INVADED EUROPE, WE GOT BEATEN, WE BECAME A NATION UNDER SIEGE.
ALL BECAUSE MY FACILITY GOT DESTROYED.
BUT IT TOUCHED ME ON A DEEPER LEVEL. NOT JUST THE DOLLARS AND CENTS VALUE OF EVERYTHING I LOST. NOT JUST THE ALIEN AFFRONT TO ME. NO.
I LOST SOME VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE THAT DAY. EVERY SPECIAL PERSON IN FACT. EVERYONE I LOVED.
WHEN YOU ALL RETURNED TO AMERICA FROM OUR INITIAL ASSAULT, TO PLAN ANEW, I COULDN'T ACCOMPANY AMERICA'S RETREATING FORCES. MY NEED TO AVENGE MY LOVED ONES WAS TOO STRONG.
I IMPROVED BRASS'S TECHNOLOGY SO HE'D BE A FIT REPLACEMENT FOR ME IN THE TEAM.
WHICH HE HAS, IRON MAN. SPEAKING AS ANOTHER STAND-IN, I CAN ATTEST TO BRASS'S WORTH.
ANYWAY, WHEN I'D DONE THAT, I LEFT FOR EUROPE AGAIN.
I'VE BEEN FIGHTING THEM THERE ON MY OWN SINCE THEN.
OH, APART FROM THE TIMES CAPTAIN AMERICA... THE ORIGINAL CAP... NOMAD, I GUESS HE'S CALLED NOW... THE TIMES HE'D DOUBLE-TEAM WITH ME.
YOU'RE SAYING CAP'S OUT THERE TOO?
AFTER HIS "FAILURE" AS HE CALLS IT, THERE WAS NO WAY HE'D RETURN FROM FIGHTING.
I WANT REVENGE. HE WANTS REDEMPTION.

KITAEN.
I'M ON IT, SIR. IF I CAN PINPOINT HIS LOCATION I CAN TELEPORT MYSELF DOWN TO HIM.
ANYWAY, I'M HERE. I'M BACK. WHY? WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT YOU TOOK ME AWAY FROM THE FIGHTING?
A CHANCE TO END THE FIGHTING ALTOGETHER.
YOU AREN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO'S LOST LOVED ONES.
WE LOST SUE'S BROTHER JOHNNY DURING THE AMERICAN INVASION. THEN, IN AN EXPLORATION OF THE NEGATIVE ZONE FOR FUEL SOURCES THAT MIGHT AID THE WAR EFFORT, THE F F WERE TRAPPED IN AN ENERGY VORTEX.
BEN WAS SEPARATED FROM US AND DRAGGED OFF TO SOME UNCHARTED AREA OF THE ZONE.
WHEN WE CAN SPARE THE TIME WE HUNT FOR HIM.
WE WENT FURTHER THAN EVER BEFORE. THIS LAST VISIT. I THINK WE MAY HAVE GONE TO THE VERY EDGE OF THE NEGATIVE ZONE, IF SUCH A THING IS POSSIBLE.
WHAT WE FOUND THERE, WAS AN AREA LIKE A BROKEN LENS, OR THE EYE OF A FLY.. SHOWING GLIMPSES OF OTHER DIMENSIONS. OTHER REALITIES. EARTH AND THE UNIVERSE AROUND IT, OVER AND OVER WITH SUBTLE CHANGES.
THERE ARE EARTHS WHERE THE HEROES ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT. THERE ARE WORLDS WHERE THERE ARE NO SUPER-HEROES AT ALL.
ONE WORLD HAD ANIMAL PEOPLE WALKING AROUND AND TALKING. MICE AND DUCKS AND THE LIKE.

BUT BY ANALYZING THE DATA, I UNCOVERED ONE TRUTH. A STARTLING TRUTH
WE NEED TO RECRUIT THE MICE AND DUCKS?
FUNNY, GRIFTER, BUT NO.
WE NEED TO TEAR THIS WORLD IN HALF
THE WORLD WE LIVE IN IS ACTUALLY TWO DIFFERENT REALITIES THAT MET IN A MOMENT WHEN BOTH EXPERIENCED UNREALITY.
THEY WERE MELD TOGETHER BY SOME SORT OF REVERSE ATTRACTION
SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME?
NO, WHAT SEEMS LIKE THAT, WAS ACTUALLY TWO SEPARATE DAWNS OF TIME, THAT UPON UNITING INTERTWINED BOTH AS PAST AND PRESENT
WHAT I WAS ABLE TO ASCERTAIN FROM MY SCANNERS WAS THAT ON ONE EARTH THE SKRULLS WERE A SOLE THREAT THE WORLD'S HEROES WERE ABLE TO CONTROL. LIKEWISE, ON THE OTHER WORLD IT WAS THE DAEMONITES WHO WERE ALSO DEFEATED BY SUPERHUMANS.
THIS IS MIND-BLOWING!
IT'S LIKE THOSE CRAZY DISCUSSIONS YOU HAVE DURING PARTIES WHEN EVERYONE'S TIRED AND THEY'VE HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK.
AS CRAZY AS THIS SOUNDS, THE PAST WE KNOW MIGHT BE A FIGMENT OF THE PRESENT'S IMAGINATION.
ALTHOUGH IT SEEMS LIKE WE'VE BEEN LIVING THE LIVES WE HAVE. FIGHTING THE WAR WE FOUGHT. THE WORLD TODAY MAY ONLY HAVE BEEN UNITED FOR A MINUTE OF REALITY... OR AN HOUR, OR A YEAR.

I ALSO LEARNED THAT SOMEONE... AND IT CAN ONLY BE ONE PERSON, DOCTOR DOOM. . HAD MADE THE SAME DISCOVERY THAT THE F F DID, AND CREATED SOME KIND OF "LOCK" TO KEEP THE TWO REALITIES COMBINED, WHERE OTHERWISE THEY WOULD HAVE DRIFTED APART AGAIN
MY SCANNER DEVICES TRACED THE "LOCK", PIN-POINTING THE LOCATION IN THE ZONE FROM THE SIGNAL THE LOCK WAS GIVING OFF
BUT THEN WE WERE ATTACKED BY ANNIHILUS AND HE-SPONT, TWO OF DOOM'S MINIONS, WHOSE TASK IT IS TO "GUARD THE TRUTH" AS THEY PUT IT .. OR STOP THE TRUTH BEING KNOWN
WE FELT IT MORE IMPORTANT YOU ALL KNEW ABOUT IT, THAN FOR US TO FIGHT AND RISK DEFEAT
WHOA. SO LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT...
...IN LAYMAN'S TERMS FOR ALL OF US WHO FLUNKED SCIENCE... . OUR REALITY IS ACTUALLY TWO REALITIES AND THE ONLY WAY WE CAN DEFEAT THE SKRULL/DAEMONITE ALLIANCE IS TO SPLIT THE REALITIES AGAIN?
BUT HOW WILL WE KNOW WHICH REALITY ANY ONE OF US IS GOING BACK TO?
WE DON'T
YOU JUST HAVE TO HOPE THAT THE LIFE YOU LIVE NOW . THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE... S THE WAY YOUR LIFE WILL REMAIN
SO, I ADMIT THIS IS A DAUNTING PROPOSITION. DO WE ALL AGREE TO UNDO REALITY FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE AND SANITY? OR DO WE PERSEVERE IN THE FACE OF LOOMING DEFEAT?
I AM MERELY THE MESSAGE-BEARER, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN IT'S ALL OF OUR DECIS ON.
SO YOU HEARD HIM, PEOPLE

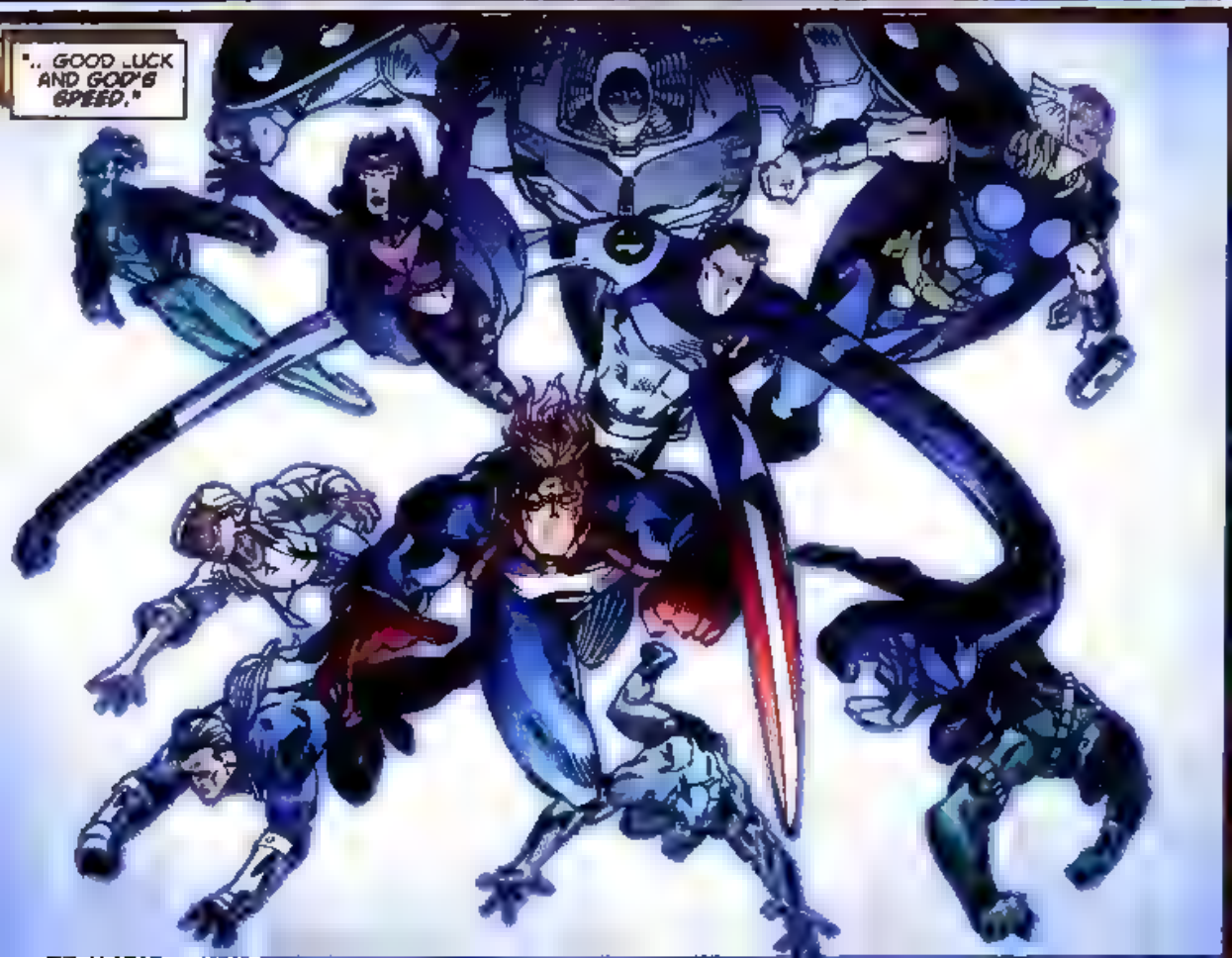
LATVERIA
THEY HAVE NO IDEA ONE OF THEM IS A SPY, DOOM. WHAT SUPREME IRONY
..WHICH IS IT TO BE?
YES, HELSPONT, THEY PLAN WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN THEIR MEANS OF VICTORY. .
AND INSTEAD, BY REVEALING ALL TO US WE HAVE THE MEANS TO DEFEAT THEM
INDEED Dr DOOM, IF WE'RE FOREWARNED OF THE HEROES' PLANS, WE CAN UNDO THEM BEFORE THEY'VE EVEN BEGUN
I HAVE TO SAY, STRIKING AN ALLEGIANCE WITH YOU AND HELSPONT REALLY WAS ONE OF MY BETTER IDEAS
YOUR IDEA?
YOUR IDEA? YOU MAY BE THE SKRULL'S HIGH-EMISSARY, BUT YOU FOLLOW MY LEAD. I DOUBT YOU'VE EVER HAD A GOOD IDEA IN YOUR LITTLE GREEN HEAD
YE.. YES QUITE RIGHT IT IT... REALLY WAS ONE OF YOUR BETTER IDEAS, I MEANT TO SAY
YOUR IDEA, DOCTOR DOOM.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, HELSPONT?
I DON'T THINK IT MATTERS WHO FIRST THOUGHT OF OUR PACT, ONLY THAT WE CONTINUE TO PROSPER BY IT.
WE HAVE HALF OF THE WORLD, GENTLEMEN. LET'S TAKE THE REST.

THE NEGATIVE ZONE...
SO IN THEORY, I COULD GET OUT OF THIS.
YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU HAVE A PROPULGION UNIT ON YOUR COSTUME THAT COULD CARRY YOU FREE OF THIS WHITE AREA WE'RE BOTH IN, BUT YOU HAVEN'T DONE IT? THAT'S CRAZY
NO, TO WASTE YOUR ONE SHOT, IS CRAZY
I GOT ENOUGH POWER TO GET OUT OF HERE, BUT NOT MUCH MORE. I DON'T KNOW WHICH WAY TO GO. I SET OFF ONE WAY, AND THE GATEWAY OUT OF HERE COULD BE SOMEWHERE ELSE AND IT AIN'T LIKE ON EARTH WHERE WE GOT FOUR POINTS OF THE COMPASS.. A ONE IN FOUR CHANCE
HERE, IT'S UP, DOWN AND ALL AROUND. THE WAY BACK TO EARTH COULD BE ANYWHERE SO I BEEN FLOATING, SAVING MY FUEL. AND HOPING FOR A SIGNPOST BACK
HAHAHAHAHAHA HAHAHA
I MISS THE JOKE, CHUM
I'M A MAN OF... I WAS GOING TO SAY ACTION, BUT I'M BEING CHARITABLE TO MYSELF. I'M A MAN OF DEATH. I FALL ONTO THE GOOD GUYS' SIDE, BUT ONLY JUST.
I NEEDED TO FIND SOME SORT OF SPIRITUALITY IN ORDER TO GET AROUND THE GUILT I FEEL FOR MY PAST DEEDS. I FOUND IT. I HAVE THAT SPIRITUALITY WITHIN ME NOW... IT'S PART OF ME.
AND BECAUSE OF THAT, I'M MORE ATTUNED TO HUMANITY.. WHICH MAKES ME MORE ATTUNED TO EARTH.. WHERE IT IS.
YOU'RE TELLIN' ME --
I'M TELLING YOU I'VE BEEN FLOATING HERE, WITHOUT ANY WAY TO PROPEL MYSELF... BUT KNOWING ALL THE WHILE WHERE I NEEDED TO GET.
YOU NEED A SIGNPOST, BROTHER, I'M IT.
THEN TOGETHER WE COULD GET OUTTA HERE
WHAT'RE WE WAITING FOR?

ALL RIGHT WE'VE ELECTED TO DO THIS.
BUT WHO EXACTLY DOES WHAT I SEE ENOUGH OF US WITH OUR COMBINED POWER, WE COULD TAKE ON ALMOST ANYTHING.
THINK WE SHOULD DEPLOY OURSELVES IN THIS FASHION.
THE "LOCK" THAT KEEPS THE TWO REALITIES TOGETHER IS POSITIONED HALF IN THE NEGATIVE ZONE AND HALF ON EARTH. IN DOOM'S CASTLE IN LATVERIA TO BE EXACT. THE LOCK DEVICE NEEDS TO BE TURNED OFF AT BOTH ENDS.
I THINK WE SHOULD SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS.
I'LL LEAD THE AVENGERS AND STORMWATCH INTO THE NEGATIVE ZONE
LYNCH AND DANE SHOULD LEAD A COMBINED ASSAULT WITH IRON MAN, WETWORKS, THE WILDCATS, THE REST OF THE FF AND DANE WHITMAN'S BLACK KNIGHTS INTO LATVERIA AND BREACH DOOM'S CASTLE
I THINK THOSE OF US WHO ARE INVADING LATVERIA SHOULD ADJOURN AND PLAN OUR ASSAULT. I WANT WETWORKS CHECKED OUT MEDICALLY AFTER THEIR COMBAT ANYWAY, SO LET'S ALL GO UP TO THE STORMWATCH SATELLITE WE KNOW IT'S IMPERVIOUS TO ATTACK
WHILE YOU'RE DOING THAT MY TEAM WILL ENTER THE NEGATIVE ZONE
THERE'S JUST ONE THING I HAVE TO DO BEFORE I GO

SO A VAST GROUP OF THEM WILL BE IN THE STORMWATCH SATELLITE.
UNFORTUNATE. THEY'RE IN THE ONE PLACE WE'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO BREACH WITH ITS DEFLECTOR SHIELD DEFENSES. NONE OF OUR SPACE FIGHTERS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO LAUNCH A SUCCESSFUL ATTACK.
PERHAPS NOW IS THE TIME FOR US TO UNVEIL THE ELEMENTRONS!
AH, BUT YOU FORGET. WE HAVE OUR SPY. NO, WE SHOULD KEEP OUR SECRET WEAPONS IN RESERVE.
THE ORDER TO GIVE IS SIMPLE, HIGH EMISSARY
". . LAUNCH THE SKRULL SPACE FLEET!"

SO, THE TASK OF YOU FOUR IS OF NO LESS IMPORTANCE. AFTER ANNIHILUS AND DEFILE EMERGED FROM THIS PORTAL, WE CAN'T SECOND-GUESS WHAT OTHER SURPRISES DOOM MAY HAVE PLANTED IN THE ZONE...
...THREATS WE WOULDN'T WANT RUNNING FREE WITHIN THE BAXTER BUILDING.
THE BUILDING WILL REMAIN SECURE, REED. DON'T WORRY.
JUST COME BACK FROM THIS ALIVE
YEAH, GOOD LUCK TO ALL OF YOU.


"... GOOD LUCK AND GOD'S SPEED."

"SO, WE BEGIN THE INVASION OF LATVERIA IN EIGHTEEN HOURS .."
...AT WHICH TIME RICHARDS SPECULATES HE'LL BE AT THE "LOCK" SITE WITHIN THE ZONE.
YEAH. I THINK WE CAN BE FULLY PREPARED BY THEN. I WONDER ABOUT SENDING US IN A COMBINED GROUP, HOWEVER. I THINK WE SHOULD SPLIT INTO SMALLER TEAMS.
MAYBE. SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHERE'S YOUR GROUP, BAXTER? THEY DIDN'T TRANSPORT UP WITH US.
THE WILDC.A.T S WILL COME ABOARD SOON. I NEEDED THEM TO TAKE CARE OF SOME THINGS IN MANHATTAN FIRST.
ANYWAY, WHAT --
SIR!
WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!
WHAT?
SKRULLS?
YES, SIR
DUMB QUESTION I GUESS. STILL, WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
OUR SHIELDS CAN WITHSTAND THEIR ASSAULT, RIGHT? THEY ALWAYS HAVE.
OUR SHIELDS WENT DOWN NINETY SECONDS AGO, SIR

WHAT CAUSED THE SHIELDS TO CRASH?
I'M NOT SURE, SIR. IT LOOKS LIKE --
YEAH?
IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE DID IT DELIBERATELY, SIR.
OH.
HOW LONG UNTIL YOU CAN GET THEM UP AND RUNNING?
OUR TECHS ARE WORKING ON IT.
HOW LONG?
HOURS.

HI.
HI.
KIND OF LAME WE DIDN'T GET TO GO INTO THE NEG ZONE WITH THE REST OF THE AVENGERS AND STORMWATCH, HUH?
WE WERE ELECTED AS REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE TEAMS TO BE PART OF THE INVASION FORCE. THAT'S JUST AS IMPORTANT.
I GUESS. WE HAVEN'T MET BEFORE, RIGHT?
NO, I THINK I'D REMEMBER SOMEONE LIKE YOU.
I'M ROXY.
CAITLIN.
IT'S FUNNY, BUT I COULD'VE SWORN WE'D MET BEFORE.
ME TOO.
ALL PERSONNEL PREPARE TO EVACUATE.
Uh Oh.
IT WOULD TAKE FOUR MINUTES FOR A FULL EVACUATION OF THE STORMWATCH SATELLITE.

THE HEROES HAVE SIX SECONDS.
IT HAPPENS SO QUICKLY IN FACT...
...THAT THERE IS NO TIME FOR SURPRISE.
NO TIME FOR PAIN.
NO TIME FOR FEAR...
...IF VALIANT HEARTS SUCH AS THESE FELT SO CALLOW A THING.
AND THEN...
MAYBE IN THE NEXT LIFE, HUH?
YEAH... MAYBE IN THE NEXT LIFE.

...IT ENDS!
WORLD WAR 3
CONTINUES IN
IRON MAN